

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 280724Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3487
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T 0628

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF, USMTM DHAHRAN AND USAS RIYADH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, YE, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN YAR ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION

REF (A) JIDDA 0481, (B) STATE 16242

1. AS DISCUSSED IN REFS A AND B WE CONSULTED WITH BRITISH EMBASSY JIDDA AND ASKED MODA CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS ALI KABBANI IF THE BRITISH COULD PARTICIPATE IN JAN 26 MEETING WITH MODA STAFF ON YAR ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. KABBANI SAID HE WOULD PREFER THE BRITISH NOT PARTICIPATE BECAUSE HE WAS UNAWARE OF MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN'S THINKING ON BRITISH INVOLVEMENT. WE ALSO SENT A LETTER TO MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN ASKING WHETHER HE THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE BRITISH TO JOIN IN BUT HE WAS AWAY FROM RIYADH ON A HUNTING TRIP AND NO RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED BY THE TIME OF THE MEETING.

2. DURING THE MEETING OF OSD TEAM AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EMBASSIES JIDDA AND SANA AND USMTM'S US ARMY SECTION WITH MODA YEMEN PROJECT OFFICER COL FALAH DHAHIRI, DHAHIRI SAID THAT MODA SAW NO RPT NO ROLE AT THIS TIME FOR BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE YEMEN ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.'

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"WE WANT TO PROVIDE YEMEN WITH EQUIPMENT SIMILAR TO OUR

EQUIPMENT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE,"
DHAHIRI SAID, "UNTIL NOW WE FORESEE ONLY FRENCH AND AMERICAN
EQUIPMENT BEING PROVIDED TO YEMEN. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT
THOUGHT YET ABOUT BRITAIN. IT WILL ADD TO OUR TROUBLES IF
WE SPLIT IT UP. IT WILL START SOMETHING NEW."

3. DHAHIRI ALSO SAID THAT THE SAG MAY PROVIDE SOME FRENCH-
MADE PANHARD ARMORED CARS AND "SOME AMC-30 TANKS IN THE
FUTURE." THESE, HE SAID, WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH PRE-
SENT SAG EQUIPMENT.

4. DHAHIRI DID NOT RPT NOT RULE OUT BRITISH INVOLVEMENT
AT SOME LATER DATE.

5. WE INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR OLIVER MILES AND
DEFENSE ATTACHE BRIAN LEES OF THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS
TO INCLUDE THEM AND BRIEFED THEM ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING.
UK EMBASSY HERE WILL PROBABLY RECOMMEND THAT THEY MAKE A
UNILATERAL APPROACH TO MODA TO SEE WHAT IF ANY ROLE THE SAG
HAS IN MIND FOR THEM IN THE YAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. WE
THINK THIS IS A LOGICAL APPROACH.

PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF, USMTM DHAHRAN AND USAS RIYADH.

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